



Assistance for Students Experiencing Homelessness



District services and your rights
under the federal McKinney-Vento Act



Under the federal McKinney-Vento Act, youth experiencing homelessness have special rights that the School District of Ashland takes very seriously.

These include the following:

School districts must, to the extent feasible, keep students in homeless situations in their school of origin (defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled) unless it is against the wishes of the parent or guardian.

Students experiencing homelessness may continue attending their school of origin the entire time they are homeless and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing.

Students may choose to enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend.

Local homeless education liaisons must help unaccompanied youth (those who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) choose and enroll in a school after considering the youth's wishes. Liaisons must provide youth with notice of their right to appeal an enrollment decision that goes against their wishes.

Our goal is to provide a stable school environment, especially for youth experiencing homelessness. This often means working with families to provide the appropriate services to allow children the ability to continue attending school on a daily basis.

For questions or assistance, please contact:
Director of Student Services
School District of Ashland
715-682-7080

The McKinney-Vento Act: Answers to Common Questions

Q. What ages does the McKinney-Vento Act cover?

A. The law applies to children and youth 21 and under, consistent with their eligibility for public education services under state and federal law.

Q. Is there a specific time limit on how long a child is considered homeless?

A. No, there is no specific time limit. However, eligibility for services is a case-specific situation and will be evaluated for each individual circumstance annually.

Q. Are migrant and immigrant students covered by the McKinney-Vento Act?

A. Yes, migrant and immigrant students are covered if they are living in a homeless situation.

Q. Can a student finish the school year or semester in the school of origin?

A. Yes. Students have the right to remain in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness. If a student moves into permanent housing during the year, he or she may finish that academic year in the school of origin.

Q. How “immediate” is immediate enrollment?

A. McKinney-Vento requires schools to enroll students and allow full participation without delay, even if the student lacks the required documentation.

Q. Can schools require verification of proof of residency, such as seeing a lease in the case where a family is hosting a student who is not a member of the family?

A. No. Schools may not require verification of proof of residency as a condition of enrollment.

Q. Under what circumstances must a school district provide transportation to school for students experiencing homelessness?

A. A district must provide transportation upon the request of a parent or guardian or in the case of an unaccompanied youth.

Q. Does the McKinney-Vento Act address preschool?

A. Yes. The law clearly and specifically includes preschool programs within its definition of free, appropriate public education.

Q. Must schools enroll youth in school without proof of guardianship?

A. Yes. Lack of guardianship cannot delay or prevent the enrollment of unaccompanied youth.

Q. Do special education laws explicitly refer to students experiencing homelessness?

A. Yes. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) contains several provisions specific to children in homeless situations.

The School District of Ashland does not discriminate based on age, race, creed, religion, color, disability, handicap, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, citizenship status, ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, or membership in the National Guard or military forces of the United States, or other protected group status.